

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1615

To amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2009

Mr. EHLERS (for himself, Mr. McKEON, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To amend section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding the definition of economic hardship.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### 3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medical Economic  
5 Deferment for Students (MEDS) Act”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF ECONOMIC HARDSHIP.**

7 Section 435(o) of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
8 (20 U.S.C. 1085(o)) is amended—

9 (1) in paragraph (1)—

1 (A) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking  
2 “or” after the semicolon;

3 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as  
4 subparagraph (C); and

5 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (A)  
6 the following:

7 “(B) such borrower is working full-time  
8 and has a Federal educational debt burden that  
9 equals or exceeds 20 percent of such borrower’s  
10 adjusted gross income, and the difference be-  
11 tween such borrower’s adjusted gross income  
12 minus such burden is less than 220 percent of  
13 the greater of—

14 “(i) the annual earnings of an indi-  
15 vidual earning the minimum wage under  
16 section 6 of the Fair Labor Standards Act  
17 of 1938; or

18 “(ii) 150 percent of the poverty line,  
19 as defined under section 673(2) of the  
20 Community Services Block Grant Act, ap-  
21 plicable to such borrower’s family size; or”;  
22 and

23 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “(1)(B)” and  
24 inserting “(1)(C)”.

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